

EAST PROVIDENCE SCHOOL DEPARTMENT
East Providence School Committee
East Providence City Hall, 145 Taunton Avenue
Conference Room 306, Third Floor
East Providence, Rhode Island 02914

August 27, 2012

Open Session

Mr. Tsonos called the meeting to order at 6:30PM. Four Members Present: Stephen Furtado, Ryan Tellier, Chrissy Rossi, Charles Tsonos. (Luisa Abatecola absent). Also present: Dr. John V. DeGoes, Interim Supt. and Mr. Robert Silva, Esq. and Andrew Thomas, Esq.

The Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag and Moment of Silence observed in memory of Maria George and Jim Whittaker.

Public Comment I Interim Superintendent's Report

Personnel Report on Retirements/Resignations/Leaves of Absence – Dr. John DeGoes presented personnel items; read by Stephen Furtado, Clerk:

RESIGNATIONS

Heidi Matczak-Special Ed/Severe Profound-EPHS-Effective 08/20/2012

**Caren Skurka-Occupational Therapist-Effective 08/21/2012 Following
LOA**

Kelly Pringle-Kindergarten Teacher-Silver Spring-Effective 08/24/2012

Dianne Newton -Supervisory Assistant-WADD-Effective 09/08/2012

Jo-Ann Luongo -Business Teacher-EPHS-Effective 08/24/2012

**Kimberly Laliberte-Principal- Oldham Elementary School-Effective
08/24/2012**

LEAVE OF ABSENCE

**Megan King (yr1)-Grade 2 Teacher-Francis Elementary
School-Effective 08/20/2012**

Jorge Lomastro (yr1)-Science Teacher-RMS-Effective 06/13/2012

**Leanne Walker Beard (yr1)-Supervisory Assistant-KH-Effective
08/15/2012**

**Teresa Medeiros (yr1)-Science Department Head-RMS-Effective
2012/2013 School Year**

**Elaine Allen(yr 1) Grade 1-Waddington Elementary-Effective
2012/2013 School Year**

**Elaine Allen (yr 1) Head Teacher-Waddington Elementary
School-Effective 2012/2013 School Year**

RESCINDED APPOINTMENT

Andrea Ridlon-Jarmie-School Nurse/Teacher

Middle School Sports – Dr. John DeGoes stated that the issue of funding for Middle School Sports was discussed at the last Budget Commission meeting and the Budget Commission made it abundantly clear that there is no money allocated either in the existing budget for this fiscal year ending 10/31/12 or next fiscal year. The Middle School principals are discussing alternative sports programs; possibly some type of intramural program and they will contact coaches, if the School Committee agrees to let them know that Middle School sports will not be funded. Mrs. Rossi advised that

the Project 106 group would like to be involved in fund raising to help get the program started. Mr. DeVall and Mr. Prew, Middle School Principals, are looking at running programs concurrently for ten to twelve weeks; these programs are tied to staff in the building because of BCI checks on any one else; the key is to get staff on board after school. Mr. Tsonos requested that the School Committee be advised of the plans and the estimated cost.

Consolidation of Legal Services – Dr. DeGoes reported that at the last Budget Commission meeting there was discussion to request proposals for joint legal services between the city and schools. He indicated that the School Department was not in a position to support the resolution because the School Committee had not yet had the opportunity to review or comment on it. Mr. Tsonos stated that the members of the School Committee believe this is a very serious question, the results of which will carry through for many years and they would like to examine the proposal further through a sub-committee chaired by Mr. Furtado. Mrs. Rossi believed that the School Committee is entitled to choose legal counsel under Title 16.

Mr. Tsonos commented that a sub-committee would allow the School Committee to check on the legal implications and would like to respond to the Budget Commission their wish to investigate the issue further; he does not want to rush into a decision. Mr. Furtado asked to chair the sub-committee and present the School Committee's position after receiving advice from RI Department of Education

regarding independent legal counsel.

Mr. Robert Silva, legal counsel for the School Committee explained this has been reviewed before; school department and city issues are very different and going forward with one lawyer for the city and School Committee could present conflicts at times. His client is the School Committee and Superintendent; when asked to give advice to the School Committee, his position is in the interest of schools and children; if he were the firm representing the City Council, he would recommend that this would not be in the best interest of the city which provides funds to run the schools; this would present conflicting issues. Mr. Silva agreed with the School Committee to further explore the issue. Mr. Silva stated that his small firm has represented the district for about 15 years focusing on education law; he does not get involved in city law; there is no duplication of efforts; the city uses independent counsel; his firm has not engaged outside counsel and he was not sure what money would be saved with one large firm. The school department's legal expenses were significantly higher in 2010 when another firm was hired for collective bargaining with claims and appeals still pending; to be decided shortly; it was in the best interest of the district to have that firm continue with those cases. Mr. Silva urged the School Committee to work with the Budget Commission on this decision. Motion by Mr. Furtado to form a subcommittee to review the consolidation of legal services between the city and schools, seconded by Mr. Tellier. Vote 3-1; Mr. Furtado, aye; Mr. Tellier, aye; Mr. Tsonos, aye; Mr. Rossi voted nay.

Action Items

Personnel Appointments – Mrs. Rossi questioned the nepotism policy related to hiring; Dr. DeGoes responded that every individual hired is asked to sign a document they are not violating the policy. Motion by Mrs. Rossi requested to discuss personnel issues in Executive Session, seconded by Mr. Tellier. Vote 4-0.

New Business

September School Committee Meeting - Mr. Tsonos reported that the School Committee would be rescheduling the September 11th meeting since it is Primary Day; September 17th or 18th might be possible; School Committee will post the rescheduled meeting as soon as possible.

Public Comment II

Jessica Beauchaine, representative of Project 106 requested that the School Committee present their position on Middle School sports; her board feels that it is important; because the issue has been misrepresented in the community.

Mrs. Rossi agrees the Middle Schools should have sports programs and supports and welcomes the fundraising efforts; if departments

are consolidated, money should be available to bring back sports; currently there is no detail in the budget; it is still a work in progress; no five year plan; labor negotiations pending; volatile at best.

Mr. Furtado supported Middle School sports programs; however, the big picture is an unfunded city pension with the kids taking the heat for it, which is not right; we need to find \$106,000; he will continue to look to provide for kids; fundraising for Middle School sports is the only way it can be done right now.

Mary Nascimento, parent of a student, stated that her child has not received speech services for the past two years and asked if we are up to speed with it this year. She also heard that her child's classroom was being moved and she had not been informed yet.

Ms. Cheryl Ursillo, Director of Pupil Services responded that to the best of her knowledge, speech services would be provided this year; as a result of a meeting last year regarding concerns of the intensity of speech services and the fact that it has been difficult to keep speech therapists employed, especially at Whiteknact School; there was discussion about procuring services outside of East Providence schools at Meeting Street where these services were available to take care of comp hours and to lessen those demands; there were discussions with staff at Whiteknact School back in December and January and they were receptive to spinning off a classroom; other variables included children returning from outside placements and a

limited choice for facilities; a classroom at Hennessey was sufficient to return four students to the district; also a number of students who reside here through the Craft Program at Bradley who we are obligated to educate, some with IEP's and some requiring self contained classrooms; the change would realize \$75,000 in savings. Ms. Ursillo stated that the objective is to hire people and have them stay; if fewer numbers required, it would lessen intensity of services; she had exit interviews with therapists who would have fewer children; this would keep children in the district at a lower cost; Ms. Ursillo stated that they looked at children and classrooms and to keep speech staff speech and subs which is difficult at Whiteknact School.

Motion by Mr. Furtado to convene in Executive Session for purposes of discussing: Personnel - R.I. Gen. Laws §42-46-5(a) (1, Collective Bargaining R.I. Gen. Laws §42-46-5(a) (2), Litigation/Pending Litigation -R.I. Gen. Laws §42-46-5(a) (2) seconded by Mrs. Rossi. Vote 5-0.

Motion by Mr. Furtado to Return to Public Session and to seal the minutes of the executive session, seconded by Mr. Tellier. Vote 5-0. (Mrs. Abatecola present for executive session forward). No votes taken in executive session.

APPOINTMENTS – Superintendent's Recommendations presented; read by Mr. Furtado, Clerk:

Frank DeVall-Principal-MMS-Effective 08/22/2012

John Craig-Assistant Principal-MMS-Effective 06/30/2011

Teresa Medeiros- Master Mentor Evaluator (1yr)From Part Time –Full Time

Effective 2012/2013 School Year

Marisa Martinez-Band Director-EPHS-Effective 2012/2013 School Year

Lisa McKinnon-Grade 2 Teacher – Francis Elementary (1yr) School Effective 09/04/2012

Amanda Guidice-Elementary Teacher-TBD (1yr) Effective 09/04/2012

Holly DaSilveira-Reading Specialist –Francis Elementary (1yr)-Effective 09/04/2012

Alissa Chamberland-Reading Specialist – TBD (1yr)-Effective 09/04/2012

Kerri Calabro-Guidance Department Coordinator-RMS-Effective 2012/2013 School Year

Robert Anastasi -Guidance Counselor-RMS-Effective 2012/2013 School Year

**Sarah Martin-Kindergarten Teacher-Francis Elementary (1yr)-Effective
2012/2013 School Year**

Daniel Lynch-Kindergarten Teacher-Silver Spring-Effective 09/04/2012

**James DeBlois-Teacher Assistant-MMS-From 5/5-3/5-Effective
09/06/2012**

**Lynn McKusker-Teacher Assistant-MMS-From 5/5-2/5-Effective
09/06/2012**

Natalia Cordeiro-Supervisory Assistant-TBD-Effective 09/06/2012

Sonia Aguiar-Supervisory Assistant-TBD-Effective 09/06/2012

Samani Villela-Supervisory Assistant-TBD-Effective 09/06/2012

Kristen Cobb-Supervisory Assistant-TBD-Effective 09/06/2012

Sue Lima-Supervisory Assistant-TBD-Effective 09/06/2012

Tina Motta-Supervisory Assistant-TBD-Effective 09/06/2012

**Elaine Allen-Principal-Oldham Elementary School-Effective
08/29/2012**

Mark Maguire-Band Director-RMS-Effective 2012/2013 School Year

Motion to approve appointments by Mr. Furtado, seconded by Mrs. Rossi. Vote 5-0.

Motion to adjourn by Mrs. Rossi, seconded by Mr. Tellier. Vote 5-0.

Respectfully submitted,

Patricia A. Iannelli, Administrative Assistant

Stephen Furtado, Clerk of the Committee